

a Platoon and Company Commander at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. Following his promotion to major, he served as the Logistics Officer, 7th Marines, and then as the executive officer, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines.

Then-Lieutenant Colonel Bedard served as the assistant operations officer, 1st Marine Amphibious Force, G-3, Pacific Plans Officer, and finally as the G-5. Assigned to NATO and stationed in Holland, LTC Bedard served in the Central Region Operations Division in charge of reinforcement operations of Allied Forces to Central Europe.

Then-Colonel Bedard was reassigned to Twenty-Nine Palms, California, where he directed the Combined Arms Exercise Program at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. He became the Assistant G-3 for Operations for the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. From May 1991, through June 1993, Colonel Bedard commanded the 7th Marine Regiment, which deployed to Somalia in December, 1992. In July, 1993, he was assigned as the Assistant Division Commander for the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California, and in October 1993, he was reassigned as J-3 Operations Officer, Joint Task Force, Somalia.

In June, 1994, Colonel Bedard was advanced to Brigadier General and was assigned as the President, Marine Corps University and Commanding General Marine Corps Schools, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia. His next assignment in June, 1995, was as the Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii. General Bedard assumed command of 2d Marine Division in July 1997, and was promoted to Major General on September 1, 1997. He assumed command of 2d Marine Expeditionary Force in July 1999. On June 29, 2000, General Bedard relinquished command of Second Marine Expeditionary Force and was advanced to his current rank. Lieutenant General Bedard has been the Deputy Commandant of Plans, Policies and Operations at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, since July 2000, where he has skillfully guided Marine Corps operations following September 11th, 2001, and during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Throughout his career as a U.S. Marine, Lieutenant General Bedard has demonstrated his outstanding character, discerning wisdom, and deep sense of duty to his Country, his Corps, his Marines, and their families. On behalf of the U.S. Senate I thank Lieutenant General Bedard for his exemplary career, his many accomplishments, and his devoted service to our Nation. We also thank his wife, Linda, and their three children for sharing him with his country. Congratulations, Lieutenant General Bedard; your mission has been very well accomplished.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3087. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

H.R. 3146. An act to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program, and certain tax and trade programs, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 69. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2754) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: Mr. HOBSON, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BERRY, and Mr. OBEY.

The message further announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as additional conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 3) to prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion: Mr. CHABOT, and Ms. LOFGREN.

At 12:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2555. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2657. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

S. 111. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance of the Miami Circle site in the State of Florida as well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 233. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

S. 278. An act to make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount Naomi Wilderness Area, and for other purposes.

At 12:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3161. An act to ratify the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to establish a do-not-call registry.

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1657. A bill to amend section 44921 of title 49, United States Code, to provide for the arming of cargo pilots against terrorism.

## ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 25, 2003, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 111. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance of the Miami Circle site in the State of Florida as well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 233. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

S. 278. An act to make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount Naomi Wilderness Area, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4397. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Interest Rate" (Rev. Rul. 2003-104) received on September 22, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4398. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The Jobs and Growth Act of 2003—Information Reporting for Payments in Lieu of Dividends" (Notice 2003-67) received on September 22, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4399. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled